

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA - MR HUMMEL:CHG

APPROVED BY EA - MR HUMMEL

P - MR HABIB (SUBS)

S/S-O: S.STEINER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCUNC NIACT

S E C R E T STATE 208610

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: KS, KN, US

SUBJECT: REACTION TO NORTH KOREAN MESSAGE

REF: SEOUL 6523

1. KOREAN AMB. HAHM PHONED UNDER SECRETARY HABIB TO EXPRESS SEOUL'S CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE U.S. OVER-REACTION TO CONCILIATORY LANGUAGE USED BY NORTH KOREAN SIDE IN CLOSED MAC MEETING AFTER TREE-FELLING.

2. HABIB TOLD HAHM TO REPORT THAT USG WILL NOT FALL FOR ANY NORTH KOREAN PLOYS AND THAT ALL FURTHER MOVES WILL BE SUBJECT TO PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH PRESIDENT PARK. USG DID NOT ACT MERELY TO CUT THE TREE; WE ACTED TO DEMONSTRATE FIRMNESS. WE HAVE SHOWN THE STRENGTH OF OUR COMMITMENT, AND THAT IS THE MAIN POINT. WE ARE NOT GOING TO LOSE THE ADVANTAGE THAT WE HAVE IN THAT THE OTHER SIDE HAS IN EFFECT ADMITTED THEY DID SOMETHING THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE. THE NORTH KOREAN

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STATEMENT IS, OF COURSE, FAR FROM ACCEPTABLE. HABIB

ADVISED ROKG TO MAKE SURE THAT ROK REACTIONS CONTINUE TO STRESS PARK'S PREVIOUS STATEMENTS SHOWING THAT ROK DOES NOT TAKE AGGRESSIVE OR PROVOCATIVE POSTURE.

3. HAHM ASKED HOW LONG U.S. ALERT AND DEPLOYMENTS WILL CONTINUE. HABIB SAID WE DID NOT YET KNOW HOW LONG, BUT IN ANY CASE WE WILL BE CAUTIOUS, AND WILL CONSULT BEFORE DECISIONS ON WITHDRAWALS ARE MADE.

4. ABOVE SHOULD BE USED IN AMBASSADOR'S CONTACTS WITH ROK, INCLUDING MEETING WITH PARK.

KISSINGER

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